

# THE *Good Shepherd's Heart*

— LIVING PARABLES —

The Voice of My Beloved Ministry Publication



## **Welcome back to the The Good Shepherd's Heart: Living Parables!**

These parables are an account of my real life encounters with the Good Shepherd, which are by His divine design, and contain the heavenly jewels of revelation, wisdom and priceless lessons in leadership and stewardship that He has graciously taught me. These encounters take place on the countless prayer walks we have done, walking the beautiful farmland and coastal shores in County Kerry. They are what I call Living Parables where the Master Teacher has me walk something out in the natural, then makes me very aware He is there to teach me a spiritual lesson, wanting me to see another facet of His beautiful Good Shepherd's heart. The parables began soon after I arrived in Ireland in late September 2015.

When this parable took place, it was about seven months after my arrival in Ireland. As I recall the details, it could not be more relevant for us today, as the darkness increases all around, with His eyes searching to and fro upon the nations, looking for vessels whom He can fill with His glory – His answer for the dark days that lie before us!

It is my humblest honor to share the Good Shepherd's heart with you. I pray these accountings will bless you, strengthen you and encourage you as you run to finish the race that is set before you. May You hear the Good Shepherd's voice calling you closer to His bosom – calling you out of your old ways of doing things, and into the new ways He has just for you!

In His loving Mercy,

Tracy Hogan



## Living Parable: His Ways Are Not Our Ways.



It was a beautiful early April morning – cold, but with the sun breaking forth from behind the clouds often enough to warm your heart. It was the time of year when the spring lambs had been birthed. Many fields were dotted with these precious young ones, that were learning to walk on solid ground as they adjusted to the cold, wet elements, no longer protected and sheltered in the warmth of their mother’s wombs.

As I headed out the door to walk and pray with the Lover of my soul, my heart was heavy. I had just walked through some challenging circumstances, and feeling like a foreigner in a foreign land more than ever. I thought of the lambs and it cheered my heart and said, *“Lord, will we go that way – the road that brings us by their field, and see how they are doing?”* I loved the lambs and just the thought to see them quickly brought joy to my heart! I had not experienced being around them before and they melted my heart every time. I could stand there and watch them forever!

Lost in prayer, we soon came upon the field that I was looking forward to getting to. Now this field was small and right next to the road, but the road was fairly quiet. So, when we got there, all the ewes and the lambs were laying down, resting. I marveled at their beauty and how peaceful and comfortable they seemed in that place of rest.

Within moments of being there though, a small boy caught my attention. He was about eight years of age and the house he lived in was directly across from this particular field. He was eating a banana, rather nonchalantly, as he crossed the road to go into the sheepfold. This boy now had my curiosity wondering what he was going to do in the sheepfold? I soon found out and it was not to my initial liking!

While eating his banana, he walked up to one of the ewes. He did not rush at her, but the opposite, there was a gentleness and calmness in his approach. He did not get too close but just close enough to disturb her causing her to jump to her feet, along with her lambs. He then stood there for a few moments in front of them – why I did not know, but he was not in a hurry to leave them after he had unsettled them. He then quietly and calmly walked over to another ewe with her lambs, causing the same result – they jumped to their feet, not feeling comfortable to lie down or stay in the same place anymore.

---

*He did not rush  
at her, but the opposite,  
there was a gentleness and  
calmness in his approach.*

---

After repeating this several times, I got very anxious with the Lord and cried out, *“Lord, stop him – please! What is he doing? He is disturbing them, they were all so happy and comfortable and he is wrecking it all, they need their rest!”* So after this boy had successfully ‘stirred’ them all up from their comfortable place of rest, while he observed them, I could see the Lord did not want him to stop. Instead, in that moment, I could now see the Good Shepherd’s heart towards His flock! My heart was bursting inside with what the Lord was allowing me to feel – His heart, His ways towards those He loves and who belong to Him, and they are surely not our ways!

And before I could even think about it – without realizing what I was doing, I shouted as loud as I could to this boy, *“You are a good shepherd!”* He turned around from where he was standing in the middle of that field, and looked at me and just smiled – it brought such joy to my heart. I then told him, *“They really like you!”* And he just smiled even more! I thought to myself, he may be just a small boy Lord, but I believe he is one of Your true shepherds.

So too, beloved, is our Good Shepherd’s heart towards us. In His love, goodness and eternal plans that He has for us, He allows the storms, the uncomfortable circumstances to come our way to awaken us out of our complacency. To awaken us out of what has become too comfortable or familiar to us. To awaken us out of our old ways of doing things – those automatic reactions we have that have become a set way, making us feel comfortable, when He wants to do something new in our lives, in our relationships, in our meetings, in our churches and ministries.

The reality is if we stay in those places that have become comfortable, we will become stagnant and miss the golden opportunities to exchange our will for His. We will miss the new thing God wants to do in our lives. It is a time of new beginnings, but if we can't let go of our old ways, we will miss the eternal plans the Lord has purposed for us to walk in and will not complete the works our Father has sent us to complete on this earth.

---

*But our Good Shepherd knows what we need to prevent us from becoming stagnant.*

---

And just like it was with that little boy, those sheep would have preferred he had not walked amongst them and disturbed their place of comfort. That would have surely made their lives easier, more comfortable, and a lot more predictable. But our Good Shepherd knows what we need to prevent us from becoming stagnant. So, in His faithfulness He brings circumstances into our lives that will 'jolt' us out of our ways into His ways, if we are willing. If we can recognize the Good Shepherd Who is in our midst, and not miss Him because of our pre-conceived ideas of what we think He is suppose to look like and sound like in our lives, in our meetings and in our services.

If we are willing to let Him make His ways our ways and His thoughts our own, we can be assured in that place – no matter how unsettling or how painful it may feel, that the Good Shepherd stands ever so near, caring for every detail of our lives with the greatest of love. And at the same time, we need to know He is not in a hurry and will not rush off leaving us to wither up and die, but will stay ever so close making sure we are able to stand in the new place He has prepared for us, providing every grace and provision we need to do so.

Beloved, be assured no one cares more about your soul being saved – meaning the renewal of your mind until Christ is completely formed within you, and your destiny being fulfilled than the Lord Yeshua. As hard or as uncomfortable as it may be in the

difficult places you are walking through, may the cry of our hearts be in this hour like never before, *“Not my ways Lord anymore, but make Your ways my ways and Your thoughts my thoughts. Lord fill me with the knowledge of Your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that I may walk worthy of You, fully pleasing You, being fruitful in every good work, letting go of anyone or anything that hinders the plans You have for me, that I would no longer care what man thinks or says about me, but to live to please the only One that matters.”*

If you are pursuing an intimate love relationship with the Lover of your soul – our Bridegroom King, a relationship encompassed in truth, purity, holiness and intimacy. Pursuing a relationship where you are no longer willing to walk in the compromise and mixture anymore, no matter what it might cost you. A relationship where you no longer want your old ways of doing things, and feeling like you fit in less than ever these days. Then be of good cheer beloved and know the Good Shepherd is fighting for you and not against you! Know that the new thing His is calling you to and is sending in your midst is not to frighten or destroy you, but bring you into the fullness of your inheritance that can only be found in Him – doing it His way.

It is easy for us to stay in a place that is comfortable. If we do though, we will have settled for so much less than what our Good Shepherd – our Great King had planned for us. Which is to be the Bride of Messiah, to rule and reign with Him over all of creation, forever! So, in the shakings that come, do not lose heart, do not grow weary and faint not – until Christ is completely formed within you, for in due season you shall reap a great reward!

*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts [Isaiah 55:8-9]. AMEN!*



The Voice of My Beloved Ministry Publication  
PO Box 140 | Kenmare, County Kerry | Ireland

[www.thevoiceofmybeloved.com](http://www.thevoiceofmybeloved.com) | [info@thevoiceofmybeloved.com](mailto:info@thevoiceofmybeloved.com)